

# Health Information Exchange Steering Committee Meeting

*January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

# Meeting Agenda

- Welcome Team Members
- 2023 HIE SC Meeting Schedule
- National eHealth Exchange – VITL agenda topic
- MDAAP update and next steps
- Data Gov Council update and next steps
- VHCURES – Act 167 and next steps
- Data Warehouse update
- Open Mtgs discussion for HIE SC, Data Gov Council, and Sub Committees

# Welcome New Team Members

**Eric Schulthesis** – Health Care Advocate, New position

**Zana Link** – Health Equity Expert, New position

**Gabe Epstein** – Privacy Expert, New position

**Helen Labun** – Long Term Care Representative

**Emily Wivell** – Agency of Digital Services

# Welcome Team Members

<b>Name, Organization</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Voting</b>
<b>Kristin McClure, AHS Office of Health Care Reform</b>	Chair	Voting
<b>Josiah Mueller, OneCare VT</b>	ACO Representative	Voting
<b>Simone Rueschemeyer, Vermont Care Partners</b>	Mental Health & Substance Use Representative	Voting
<b>Mary Kate Mohlman, Bi-State Primary Care Association</b>	Primary Care Representative	Voting
<b>Eric Schultheis, Vermont Legal Aid</b>	Health Care Advocate	Voting
<b>Jessie Hammond, Vermont Department of Health</b>	Public Health Representative	Voting
<b>Beth Anderson, VITL</b>	HIE Representative	Non-Voting
<b>Jimmy Mauro, Blue Cross Blue Shield</b>	Payer Representative	Voting
<b>Victor Morrison</b>	Consumer Representative	Voting
<b>Emma Harrigan, VT Hospital Association</b>	Hospital Care Representative	Voting
<b>Sandy Rouse, Central VT Home Health &amp; Hospice</b>	Home Health Representative	Voting
<b>Helen Labun, Vermont Health Care Association</b>	Long Term Care Representative	Voting
<b>Kana Zink, Vermont Department of Health</b>	Health Equity Expert	Voting
<b>Gabe Epstein, AHS Legal</b>	Privacy Attorney	Non-Voting
<b>Vacant, Blueprint for Health Program</b>	Practice Innovation Lead – Blueprint for Health	Non-Voting
<b>Kathryn O’Neill, GMCB</b>	Green Mountain Care Board	Non-Voting
<b>Emily Wivell, Agency of Digital Services</b>	Technologist/Security	Non-Voting

# 2023 HIE SC Meeting Schedule



# eHealth Exchange

HIESC 1/30/2023



# What is eHealth Exchange

- Network of Networks connecting more than 300 healthcare organizations, federal agencies (including VA/DOD), health information exchanges, and the Carequality network, so medical data can be exchanged nationwide to improve patient care and public health.
  - Query-based access to patient data (in and out)
  - Participant list <https://ehealthexchange.org/participants/>
- Governed by a Coordinating Committee.
- All participants sign a Data use and Reciprocal Services Agreement.
  - The DURSA is based upon the existing body of law (federal, state, local, tribal) applicable to the privacy and security of health information and is supportive of the current policy framework for health information exchange.

# How has VITL engaged to date?

- Prior to the fall of 2022, VITL connected through a point-to-point connections and we enabled specific partners to query VHIE data
  - UVM Health Network (through Epic)
  - VA and DoD (through Joint HIE)



# What is changing?

- With the new platform, VITL needed to rebuild a connection to eHX.
- eHX is no longer supporting point-to-point connections, participants must connect through a “Hub” connection, which allows data sharing with all eHX participants. This supports alignment with information blocking rules.
- A Hub connection allows others to query the VHIE and VITLAccess users to query across eHX participants.
- VITL has created a Hub connection, now in the final phases of testing.
- We expect UVMHN will test querying VITL via eHX in late February, then VA/DOD will test.
- Initially, all other queries will be blocked.

# Looking forward

- Attachment A of the current HIE Plan allows for national exchange
- VITL would like to allow providers outside Vermont (in addition to VA/DOD) to access VITL data for treatment purposes – and to enable VITLAccess users to query for data about care their patients have received in other parts of the country
- We suggest access by all eHX participants for treatment purposes.
  - We can explore other permitted uses in the future.

# Attachment A

## Section 7—National Exchange

- A. General.** Each Individual's electronic Protected Health Information that is contained in the Vermont Health Information Exchange shall be available for query-based exchange with national exchanges pursuant to Restatement II of the Data Use and Reciprocal Support Agreement ("DURSA"), April 13, 2019, and as amended in the future, unless a Participating Health Care Organization elects to not make their data available or the Individual has affirmatively elected not to have the Individual's electronic Protected Health Information shared in that manner. Participants in these exchanges shall access Protected Health information for permitted purposes pursuant to and as defined by DURSA to facilitate and protect eHealth Exchange. Additionally, an individual's PHI contained on the VHIE shall also be provided for permissible purposes to other organizations as required by federal law.
- B. VITL's Responsibilities.** VITL, in coordination with the HIE Steering Committee, shall participate in the DURSA and any successor agreements thereto and shall comply with the requirements of participation. VITL may also participate in the exchange of Protected Health Information with other state or regional health information exchanges under direct agreements so long as they are consistent with the DURSA's exchange framework and protections for the privacy, confidentiality and security of the health data.

# Medicaid Data Aggregation and Access Program (MDAAP)



- Authorized through the Medicaid Global Commitment for Health Demonstration Waiver
  - An incentive program to increase use of qualified HIT platforms and connectivity to the state's HIE.
- Eligible providers will include mental health providers, SUD treatment providers, and long-term services and supports providers.
- \$14.9 million total in MDAAP incentives to providers
  - Medicaid GCH Waiver at FMAP rate & matched with HCBS funds
  - Medicaid GCH Waiver effective thru 12/31/27
  - Home & Community Based Services & Supports (HCBS) funds effective thru 3/31/25, the currently anticipated end date of the program.

# MDAAP Program Development



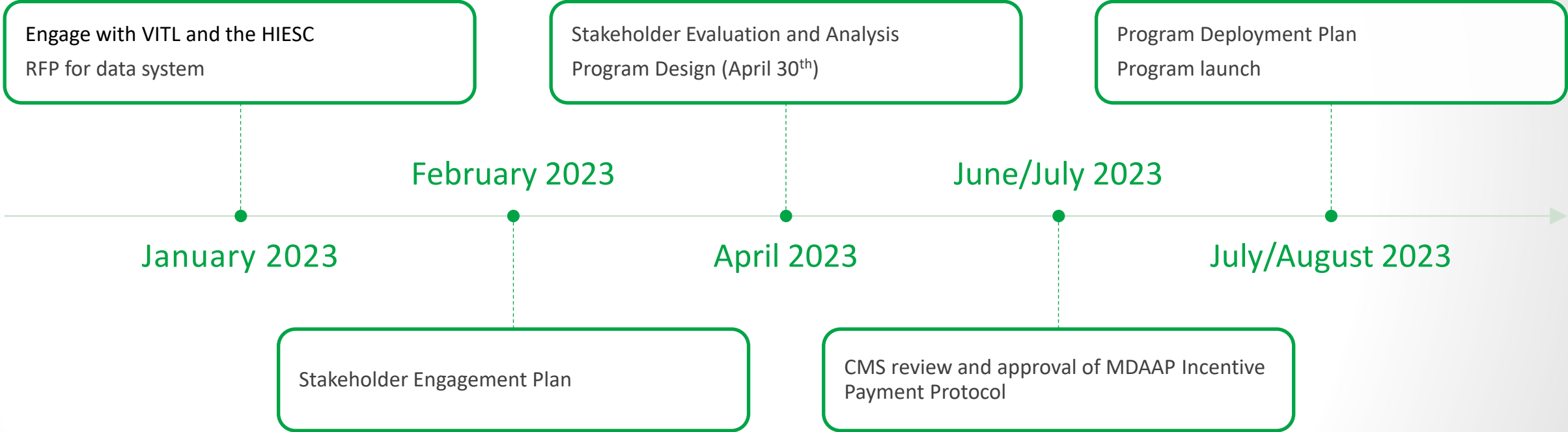
**Phase I:** Contractor will evaluate how Medicaid providers currently store, access, utilize, and share information.

- Program update: Contract awarded to Public Consulting Group (PCG) for MDAAP consultative services for market analysis and program design.
- Next steps: MDAAP subcommittee collaborate with PCG to inform PCG's [Stakeholder Engagement Plan](#)

**Phase II:** Using the findings from the evaluation, PCG will design a program to increase electronic data collection and exchange

**Phase III:** Department of Vermont Health Access will use the deployment plan, designed in partnership with PCG during Phase II, to incentivize electronic data collection tools and HIE connections and provide Technical Assistance.

# TIMELINE



# VHCURES – Act 167 and Next Steps

- As stated in [Act 167 \(S.285\)](#), *“the HIE Steering Committee shall include a data integration strategy in its 2023 HIE Strategic Plan to merge and consolidate claims data in the Vermont Health Care Uniform Reporting and Evaluation System (VHCURES) with the clinical data in the HIE”*
- The committee proposes the initiation of a data integration initiative that would deliver a project plan, using the Project Management Institute (PMI) framework, including
  - Project scope
  - Project Risk Assessment
  - Request for Information (RFI) from vendors, if needed
  - Estimated Project Cost
  - Estimated Project Schedule
- AHS will be assigning a Project Lead to initiate the stakeholder’s analysis and engagement as outlined above
- The Project Lead will partner with a GMCB SME to assemble a project team representing the different stakeholders
- Anticipated target date for the completion of the project plan is [September 30, 2023](#)



# Promote Transparency



- Promote Transparency
  - For HIE Steering Committee
  - For the Subcommittees
  - For Data Governance Council
- HIE process: [healthdata.vermont.gov](https://healthdata.vermont.gov)
  - Post the agenda 24 hours in advance
  - Take minutes and post publicly
  - Post materials shared/discussed
- For discussion: HIE Steering Committee(s) as open mtgs?

<https://sos.vermont.gov/municipal-division/open-meetings/>



# Updates and Next Steps

- Data Governance Council:
  - Data Governance Council formed – Thank you!
  - Scheduling for mid / late Feb
  - Agenda to follow
- VITL Data Warehouse: updates and next steps

